



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 202

January Session, 2015

House Bill No. 6688

House of Representatives, March 25, 2015

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. JUTILA of the 37th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT EXPANDING THE COMMISSION FOR CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 46b-215a of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 (a) The Commission for Child Support Guidelines is established to
4 issue child support and arrearage guidelines to ensure the
5 appropriateness of criteria for the establishment of child support
6 awards and to review and issue updated guidelines every four years.
7 Such guidelines shall ensure, subject to section 46b-215c, that current
8 support, health care coverage, child care contribution and orders of
9 payment on any arrearage and past due support shall be based on the
10 income of both parents and the obligor's ability to pay. Such guidelines
11 shall also ensure the appropriateness of periodic payment orders on
12 arrearages when the obligor (1) is the child's legal guardian and resides
13 with the child, or (2) is not the child's legal guardian but has resided

14 with the child either for at least six months immediately preceding the
15 order of payment on the arrearage or for at least six months of the
16 twelve months immediately preceding such order. In such cases, the
17 commission shall consider exemptions similar to those in the uniform
18 contribution scale adopted pursuant to section 4a-12. Updated
19 arrearage guidelines shall be issued at the same time as the child
20 support guidelines.

21 (b) The commission shall consist of [eleven] thirteen members as
22 follows:

23 (1) The Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court
24 Administrator's designee;

25 (2) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's
26 designee;

27 (3) The Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;

28 (4) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
29 committee on judiciary, or their designees;

30 (5) The Child Advocate or the Child Advocate's designee;

31 (6) The director of the Bureau of Child Support Enforcement, or the
32 director's designee;

33 [(5)] (7) A representative of the Connecticut Bar Association,
34 designated by the Connecticut Bar Association; and

35 [(6)] (8) Three members appointed by the Governor, one of whom
36 represents an agency that delivers legal services to the poor, one of
37 whom represents the financial concerns of child support obligors and
38 one of whom represents the Permanent Commission on the Status of
39 Women.

40 (c) The Commissioner of Social Services shall convene the
41 commission whenever a review is required to issue updated guidelines
42 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and shall provide staffing for

43 the administrative and regulatory responsibilities of the commission
44 and, within available appropriations, funding for economic studies
45 required by the commission.

46 (d) The chairperson of the commission shall be elected by the
47 members of the commission. A vacancy on the commission at any time
48 shall not invalidate any actions taken by the commission during such
49 vacancy, provided at least nine members of the commission are
50 serving at the time of such action.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	October 1, 2015	46b-215a
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HS *Joint Favorable C/R*

GAE

GAE *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

There is no fiscal impact associated with the requirements of the bill as the Department of Social Services (DSS) has historically supported the Commission for Child Support Guidelines.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6688*****AN ACT EXPANDING THE COMMISSION FOR CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill increases, from 11 to 13, the membership of the Commission for Child Support Guidelines by adding the (1) child advocate or her designee and (2) director of the Department of Social Services' (DSS) Bureau of Child Support Enforcement or his designee. It also requires DSS to provide (1) staffing for the Commission's administrative and regulatory responsibilities and (2) within available appropriations, funding for economic studies required by the commission.

By law, the commission issues child support and arrearage guidelines to ensure that criteria for establishing child support awards are appropriate. It reviews and issues updated guidelines every four years, subject to the Regulation Review Committee's approval.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 18 Nay 0 (02/17/2015)

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/09/2015)